

THE HUMBLE
PETITION
O F
Both Houses of Parliament:

Presented to His MAJESTY on the 24th
of November. —

With His MAJESTY's gracious
ANSWER
thereunto.

Also, a Proclamation for the better Government of His MAJESTY's Army.



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To the Kings most Excellent Majesty:

THE HUMBLE

P E T I T I O N

OF THE R

L O R D S and C O M M O N S assembled
in Parliament.

May it please your MAJESTY;



It is humbly desired by both houses of Parliament, That Your Majesty will be pleased to return to Your Parliament with Your Royall, not Your martiall Attendance; To the end that Religion, Laws, and Liberties may be settled and secured by their advice; Finding by a late and sad accident, That Your Majesty is environ'd by some such Counsells as doe rather perswade a desperate division, then a joyning and a good agreement with Your Parliament and People. And We shall be ready to give Your Majesty assurances of such security, as may be for Your Honour, and the safety of Your Royall Person.



HIS MAJESTIES
ANSWER
To the aforesaid Petition.



Ee expected such Propositions from you as might speedily remove and prevent the miserie and Desolation of this Kingdom, and that for the effecting thereof (We now residing at a convenient place not farre from Our Cittie of London) Committees from both Our Houses of Parliament should attene Us (for you pretended by your Message to Us at Colebrooke that those were your Desires) Instead thereof (and thereby let all the world judge of the designe of that Overture) We have onely received your humble Petition, That We would be pleased to returne to Our Parliament with Our Royall and Our Martiall Attendance. At Our good Subjects that remember what We have so often told you and them upon this subject, and what hath since past, must with Indignation looke upon this Message, as intended by the Contrivers thereof for a Scorne to Us, and thereby designed by that Malignant party, of whom We have so often complained, whose Safety and Ambition is built upon the Divisions and Raunes of this Kingdome, and who have too great an Influnce upon

upon your Actions) for a Wall of Separation betwixt Us and Our People. We have told you the reasons why We parted from London, how We were chased thence, and by whom; We have often complained that the greatest part of Our Peers, and of the Members of Our House of Commons could not with safety to their Honours and Persons, continue and Vote freely among you, but by violence and cunning practises were debarred of those Priviledges which their Birth-right, and the Trust reposed in them by their Countries gave them. The truth whereof may sufficiently appear by the small number of those that are with you. We have offered you to meet both Our Houses in any place free and convenient for Us and them, but We never could receive the least satisfaction in any of these particulars, nor for those scandalous and seditious Pamphlets and Sermons which swarme amongst you. That's all one, you tell Us, it is now for Our Honor, and the Safety of Our Royall Person, to return to Our Parliament, wherein your formerly denying Us a Negative voyce, gives Us cause to beleeve, that by giving your selves that name without Us, you intend not to acknowledge Us to be part of it. The whole Kingdom knowes that an Army was raised under pretence of Orders of both Houses (an usurpation never heard of before in any age) which Army hath pursued Us in Our own Kingdom, gave Us Battaille at Keynton, and endeavoured to take away the life of Us and Our Children, and yet these Rebels being newly recrewded and possessed of Our City of London are comcously invited to return to Our Parliament there, that is, into the power of this Army. Doth this signify any other thing, then that since the traitorous endeavours of those desperate men could

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not snatch the Crown from Our Head (it being defended by the providence of God, and the Affections and Loyalty of Our good Subjects) We should now tamely come up and give it them, and put Our selves, Our Life, and the Lives, Liberties and fortunes of all Our good Subjects into their mercifull hands? Well, We think not fit to give any other Answer to this part of your Petition. But as We impute not this Affront to both Our Houses of Parliament, nor to the major part of those that are now present there, but to that dangerous Party We and the whole Kingdom must cry out upon, So We shall for our good Subjects sake, and out of our most tender sense of their miseries and the generall Calamities of this Kingdom, which must (if this Warre continue) speedily overwhelm this whole Nation, take no Advantage of it; But if you shall really pursue what you presented to Us at Colebrooke, We shall make good all that We then gave you in Answer to it; Whereby the hearts of Our distressed Subjects may be raised with the Hopes of Peace, without which, Religion, the Lawes and Liberties can no way be settled and secured. Touching the late and sad Accident you mention, If you thereby intend that of Branceford, We desire you once to deal ingeniously with the People, and to let them see Our last Message to you, and Our Declaration to them concerning the same, (both which We sent to Our Presse at London, but were taken away from Our Messenger, and not suffered to be published) and then We doubt not but they will be soon undeceived, and easily finde out those Counsels, which do rather perswade a desperate Division, then a good agreement betwixt Us, Our two Houses, and People.

E I N L S.

By the King.

A PROCLAMATION for the better Government of His Majesties Army, and for the preventing the Plundering, Spoiling, and Robbing of His Majesties Subjects, under any Pretence whatsoever, upon pain of the punishments herein declared.

W^E having taken into Our Princely and serious Consideration the great misery and ruine falling, and likely to fall upon Our good Subjects (if not timely prevented) by the Plundering, Robbing, and Spoiling of their houses, and taking from them their Money, Plate, Household-stuff, Cattle, and other goods, under pretence of their being disaffected to Us and Our Service; And these unjust and unlawfull Actions done by divers Souldiers of Our Army, and others heltring themselves in the same, under that Title; Have, of Our tender commiseration of such their sufferings, as detesting all such horrid and barbarous proceedings, and for their future defence and preservation, thought fit to publish and declare Our Royall Pleasure to be; That from henceforth no Officer, Souldier, of Horse or Foot, or Party sent from Our Army, presume to search for, or seize upon any Money, Plate, Goods, or Household-stuff, belonging to any of Our Subjects, of what Condition soever, without Our expresse Warrant for the same, under Our Sign Manuall, declaring the cause of such seizure: And if any, either Officer or Souldier of Our Army of Horse or Foot, presume from henceforth, to Plunder, Spoil, or Rob any of Our People, or take from them any their Money, Plate, Household-stuff, or any Corn, Sheepe, or other Cattle, or any Victualls, Corn, Hay, or other Commodities or Provisions going to, or from any Our Markets or otherwise, being in the Grounds, Houses, or Possession

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Any of our Subjects, without giving full satisfaction for the same: Upon complaint made thereof, we will and command the Officer in chief of the Quarter wherein which such fact shall be committed, to proceed against such Offender or offenders by the Law Martiall without favour or countenance, & cause him or them to be executed accordingly without mercy. And if any Officer in chief of such Quarter, shall either neglect or refuse to do Justice upon any person whatsoever, offending against any particular herein mentioned, Our Will is, and we do require the party grieved to repair unto us, wheresover we shall remain, and appeal to Our Justice, which we shall be ever most ready to afford any of our Subjects for redress of their suffering, in any the least kinde whatsoever. Likewise, for the better Order in our Army, and for the preservation of the due Government thereof, we do further strictly Charge and Command all Officers and Soldiers, both of Horse and Foot of the same, as also all Parties sent out, That they, nor any of them, presume to depart or be absent from their Quarter, without a Passe or Licence under the Hand of the Officer commanding in chief in such Quarter of our Army, upon pain of death; nor that any other, but such our Officer in chief, presume to give any Passe or other Licence to any Officer or Soldier to be absent, upon pain of cashiering. And that our pleasure herein declared, may be fully observed, and produce the effects we intend, for the good and security of our Subjects, we do hereby further require all the Officers commanding in chief, in any the Quarters of our Army, to cause this our Proclamation to be published and made known to all the Officers and Soldiers under their Command, and to see that severe and due punishment be inflicted upon such, as shall henceforth offend against any the least Particulars herein before mentioned, as they and every of them expect to avoid our high displeasure for the neglect thereof.

Civen at our Court at Reading, the 25th day of November, in
the eighteenth Yeer of our Raign.

God save the King.